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Planning the Exterior

Designing the exterior of a house is difficult for most people because they find it hard to visualize the finished product. It is generally best to develop a functional floor plan and then to design a shell for that plan.

Designs with lasting appeal have simple lines and are uncluttered in appearance. A well-designed exterior has a sense of unity.

Always consider proportion when designing exteriors, that is, the relationship between the size of the house and windows and doors. Group windows in proportion to the size of the house. For example, a huge picture window placed in a small house would be poorly proportioned. Placement of doors and windows also contribute to the visual balance in exterior design.

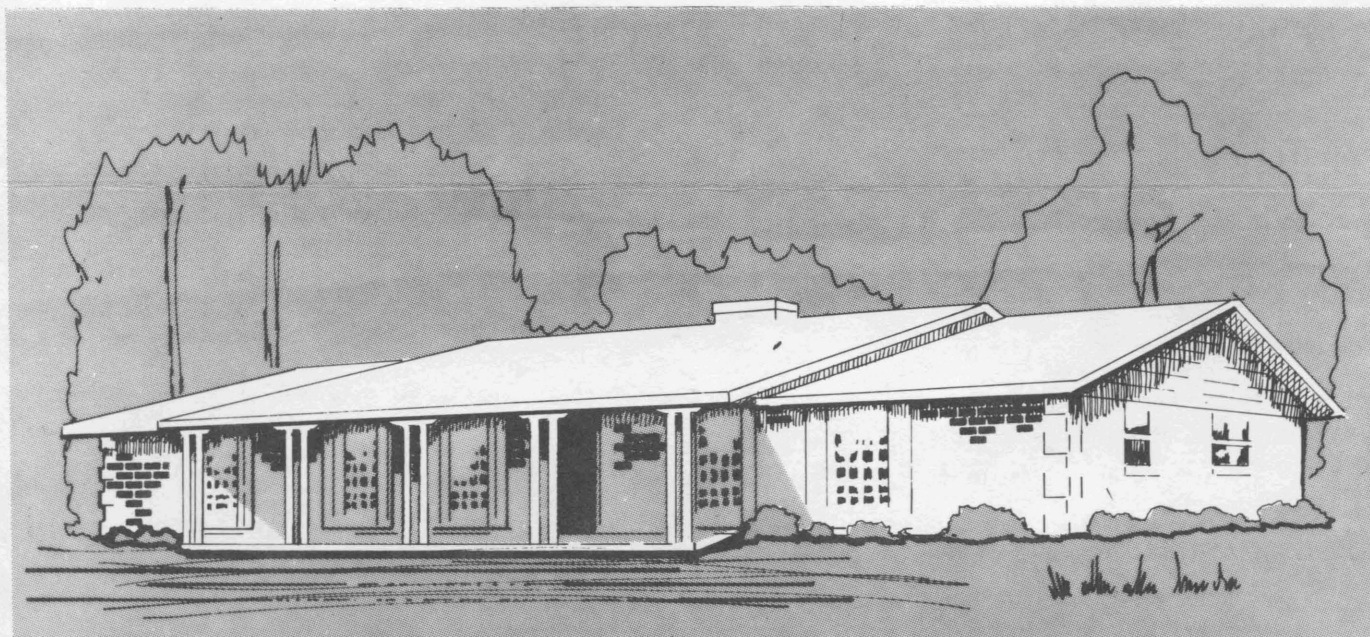
Rectangles and triangles are the most frequently used geometric forms in building. A wall with windows, shutters, trim and other details, which describe

a definite repetitive pattern and shape, creates a feeling of unity.

Exterior building material should be of consistent quality and of compatible texture and color. It is generally best to use only one type of masonry, siding and one type of window on the house.

The type of roof, its pitch, color, texture and the amount of overhang influence house styles. A low gable roof tends to make a house look longer, while a hip roof gives the house a narrower look. Wide overhangs make a house look longer and lower.

The neighborhood and the section of the country in which a house is built influence its style. It would be economically unwise to have a home drastically different from the others in the neighborhood. Likewise, it would be a mistake to build a home in one section of the country that was designed for another. The use of regional design and materials usually produces a home that is not only less expensive, but more compatible with the environment.



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Dear Home Buyer:

The shape and exterior materials used on a house affect the appearance, cost and energy needs to heat and cool the house.

As a rule, the simpler the design, the more pleasing the effect.

This letter will provide you with information to better plan the exterior of your home. If you would like to receive other publications or know more about Extension programs, please contact me.

Sincerely,

County Extension Agent